**Connecticut Association of
Boards of Education, Inc.**

81 Wolcott Hill Road, **Wethersfield,** CT 06109-1242 - (860) 571-7446

**Testimony
Submitted to the
Education Committee
March 12, 2014**

HB 5078 AN ACT IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Representative Fleischmann, Senator Stillman, members of the Committee, my name is Robert Mitchell, I serve on the Montville Board of Education. I also teach at Ridley-Lowell Business & Technical Institute in New London. It is a vocational / technical school were I teach computer applications.

My employment gives me a unique perspective, allowing me to see the strong need to raise standards in mathematics. You heard from Commissioner Pryor recently that many of our community college students start their college experience with a deficit. Statistically 1 in 5 students require remedial courses in math before they can proceed with the core requirements. I suspect that we are also struggling in our STEM education.

I am passionate in my belief that all students deserve a quality public school education that prepares them for a promising future and yet I am dismayed when that does not translate to ready to learn at the college level. I am committed to helping our students develop more skills. In my understanding of the Common Core State Standards for math, students will now have to defend their answers. It won't simply be a right or wrong answer. How a student got that answer will lead a teacher to better understand what process they used and how they might learn to see a more complete solution to a problem.

In Montville, we have realigned our curriculum and we have been teaching to the CCSS standards in all required areas since last year. Montville is there when it comes to Common Core State Standards, and we see no need to delay the implementation.

We do not want Montville schools to be designated as failing schools. We need to move beyond the penalizing nature of NCLB and strengthen our schools.

We appreciate your attention to this issue.